

SHIBA HELPLINE NEWS FLASHES

August 10, 2006

Newsletter published by the SHIBA HelpLine Regional Managers, for time-sensitive health insurance news. Please pass the information on to others!

The latest headlines:

Clarification – When does the State of Washington pay for Medicare Part D copayments?: For the state to pay for copays, clients must have a Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) Medical ID Card with all of the following:

- “X” in the Medicare column
- CNP or MNP under Scope of Care
- “MedicareRx” printed on the card

For more information, read the DSHS memo at:

<http://fortress.wa.gov/dshs/maa/MedicareDrugs/FinalMedicarePartDJune2706.doc>

BenefitsCheckUp® offers new tool for Part D’s Low Income Subsidy (LIS): Once folks complete an LIS application using the new tool, BenefitsCheckUp® will send it to the Social Security Administration. The tool lets folks print a confirmation letter.

BenefitsCheckUp® also screens the information for eligibility into many key state and federal benefit programs, without asking the client more questions. Check out the LIS Center training guide at:

http://application.benefitscheckup.org/Low_Income_Subsidy_LIS_Center_Guide.pdf

To use BenefitsCheckUp®, visit:

<http://www.benefitscheckup.org/index.cfm?link=WSBCU>

SHIBA HelpLine welcomes two new members on staff: On Aug. 1, Laura Hjelm joined SHIBA as the new Health Insurance Advisor (HIA) 2 and Martin Estrada joined as the new HIA 1. Laura will oversee sponsor contracts, SHIBA publications, training, and translations. Martin will serve as the regional trainer for the Western Washington region.

Online resources about proving citizenship: The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services offers published materials about what constitutes proof of citizenship at: http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicaidEligibility/05_ProofofCitizenship.asp.

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